



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Council on Aging Minutes 01/15/2004**

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING  
 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA 02476-4909 781-316-3400

Mara Klein Collins, Chair; Dorothy Nicholas, Vice-Chair; Shirley Chapski, Secretary

### Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging January 15, 2004 MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mara Klein Collins, Dorothy Nicholas, Harry McCabe, Lynne Larkin, Elizabeth McGaffigan, and Shirley Chapski.

Absent: Mildred Hurd and Sheri Baron

Others Present: John Joep, COA Executive Director; Charles Schwab, President ASA; and Paul Marinelli

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Mara Klein Collins, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 6 was present.

Minutes of the November 20, 2003 Meeting: Shirley moved to receive the minutes of the November 20, 2003 meeting; Harry seconded; all in favor. Harry moved to approve the minutes as printed, Dottie seconded, all in favor.

Citizens' Open Forum: Paul Marinelli, Cambridge firefighter and member of The Sidewalk and Snow Removal sub-committee of the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, spoke on pedestrian crosswalk and snow removal issues and how they affect Arlington's seniors and pedestrians. Paul distributed data on the numbers of pedestrians struck by cars on Mass Ave and the number of pedestrians killed. He is aiming for some outreach between the COA and ASA and the Board of Selectmen and the Transportation Advisory Committee to address roadway issues and how they affect seniors.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Director's Report**

- Minuteman Region COA Annual Legislative Breakfast: Will take place on March 18 at the Burlington COA. Al Norman will be guest speaker. Invitations will be sent to board members.
- New Arlington Webmaster: Kevin Strange will be developing a Human Services web site which will include the COA.
- Lifeline Subsidy Program: Lahey will not be subsidizing this program in the future as their rates have risen to \$65 for installation and \$39.75 monthly. The COA looked to other sources and learned that Winchester Lifeline is \$50 to install and \$35 monthly and Mt. Auburn is \$50 installation fee and \$34 monthly. However, after discussion with Mt. Auburn, they offered a reduced rate to people referred to them by a Council on Aging of \$38.55 to install and \$30 monthly. We have 12 to 14 participants.
- Intergenerational Task Force (IGTF): The IGTF, which is comprised of elders from the ASA, staff and volunteers from the COA, and teachers and students from Arl. high school along with several parents and students from other Arlington schools, is coming along favorably.
- Senior Services Directory Upgrade: The directory is in need of a third printing. Erica Werfel, a social work intern at the COA, is working on the upgrade, contacting all providers, and exploring possible sources for funding in the community. She informed John today that the Cambridge Savings Bank is giving us \$1500 for the printing of the directory. We are very pleased and grateful for their generosity.
- FY05 Budget: We need to strive to have the full time 35 hours for the social worker reinstated. Patsy has put in for full time clerk/secretary for the Board of Health. John's concern is if that happens, the COA clerk/secretary's hours might be reduced from full time to part time. We need to maintain this position at full time.

ASA Representative to the COA: Charles Schwab, President ASA, spoke on the two recent articles in The Advocate and felt the end result was good for both organizations. Discussion took place on informational brochures and signage. He feels there is a real need for signage for the corners of Mass Ave and Academy Street and Pleasant and Maple Streets and suggested the ASA and COA work together on accomplish this objective. Harry agreed to work with Charles on the project. Mara will draft a letter to the Selectmen and it will be hand-carried to the Board of Selectmen's office.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

•Joint ASA/COA Fund raising Committee Update: Tabled as new business for next month. •Job Description for COA Board Members: Tabled for next month's meeting. •Arlington COA Appointment of Minuteman Senior Services Board Member and •Appointment of COA Liaison with Minuteman Senior Services Board: Harry offered to fill both vacancies. After discussion, Lynne moved to appoint Harry McCabe as a member of the Minuteman Senior Services Board and as COA Liaison with Minuteman Senior Services Board, Dottie seconded. All voted in favor. A letter will be written to the Minuteman Senior Services Board notifying them of both appointments.

## NEW BUSINESS

•COA Liaison Positions & Subcommittee Review: John gave a brief overview of the liaison positions and present COA committees: •COA Liaison to the ASA — Mildred has been filling this position which is important in keeping the ASA apprised of what we have been doing and helps the two groups work in tandem. ASA President, Charles Schwab, who serves as liaison to the COA, said he finds it useful to attend COA meetings and invited COA members to attend ASA meetings and Mara expressed interest in attending.. •COA Liaison to Minuteman — Every COA in the Minuteman region of 16 towns invites a liaison from each COA to their board meetings. This is helpful in keeping the COA informed as to what Minuteman is doing. •Executive Committee — Harry suggested expanding the committee to include other interested members. •Town Day Committee — Since Town Day participation is decided at a few board meetings prior to Town Day and this seems to work well, the Town Day committee will be eliminated. •Long Range Planning Committee — Originally established to set goals for the board, it never got beyond the first few steps as people left who had served on that committee. It is not currently active. John asked that we look at it in two ways: What do we want for seniors for next year and what should be the board's goal for next year. •Membership Committee — At one time the board was more involved in the membership process—would see applications of prospective members and make recommendations but that is no longer the case. The board agreed that Mara will contact Patsy Kramer about the COA board being more involved in the membership process. •Sevovan Bequest Committee — As stated in the COA Recommended Policy Statement, which was approved by the COA members on Jan 22, 1998, every member of the board is a member of the Sevovan Bequest Committee. The committee, chaired by Harry McCabe, meets on the 2nd Tues of the month, as needed, to discuss and review proposals for the use of the bequest and make recommendations to the board. •Assisted Living/Housing Options Task Force — Appointed by the Board of Selectmen, this committee was formed to look at possibilities for low and moderate income housing. John said from his perspective, it seems it never had the support of the Town behind it and does not seem to be functioning. •Symmes Advisory Committee — Cindy Friedman, who is a member of that committee, was elected by the COA as the representative to that committee from the COA. •TRIAD: Discussion tabled until next meeting. However, Dottie reported briefly that she had been in contact with Lt. Serson, Arl. Police Dept. Dottie and he will gather information on the program, discuss the agencies involved, how the program should be structured and how best to utilize the resources we have. Lt. Serson will meet with the board at a future date.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Shirley moved to adjourn, Harry seconded; all in favor. Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Date of next Regular Meeting, February 19, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.